

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 114164

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER RECEIVES CREDENTIALS FROM
AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR

1. AMBASSADOR LOPEZ PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON MAY 16. FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, THE PRESIDENT HAD A FIVE-MINUTE CHAT WITH THE AMBASSADOR. PRESENT ALSO WERE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR BRZEZINSKI AND ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LUERS.

2. THE PRESIDENT OPENED THE CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT OF AMBASSADOR LOPEZ' PREVIOUS CAREER AND NAVAL EXPERIENCE. THEY DISCUSSED THEIR COMMON NAVAL BACKGROUNDS. THE PRESIDENT THEN SAID HE WAS PLEASED ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN PARAGUAY AND MOST ENCOURAGED BY THE PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT'S INVITATION TO THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS
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COMMISSION TO VISIT PARAGUAY. THE PRESIDENT SAID THIS WAS AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER NATIONS AND HELPS TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMISSION'S WORK. AMBASSADOR LOPEZ REPLIED THAT PARAGUAYAN GOVERNMENT'S MAJOR CONSIDERATION WAS TO ASSURE THAT THE DELEGATION FROM THE COMMISSION WOULD BE OBJECTIVE IN ITS EXAMINATION OF EVENTS IN PARAGUAY. THE AMBASSADOR SAID PARAGUAY SHARED THE PRESIDENT'S

INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. THE PRESIDENT REPLIED THAT

HE LOOKED FORWARD TO COLLABORATION WITH THE GOP IN THIS AREA.

3. THE PRESIDENT, IN COMMENTING WE HOPED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE GOP, SAID THAT HE WANTED AMBASSADOR TODMAN TO VISIT PARAGUAY DURING HIS NEXT TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA. AMBASSADOR LOPEZ SAID THAT INDEED HE HOPED THAT IN TODMAN'S NEXT TOUR HE WOULD VISIT PARAGUAY FIRST. THE PRESIDENT TURNED TO LUERS AND ASKED THAT THE MESSAGE BE CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR TODMAN TO INCLUDE PARAGUAY EARLY IN HIS NEXT TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA.

4. THE PRESIDENT THEN QUESTIONED THE AMBASSADOR ABOUT PARAGUAY'S COLLABORATION WITH ITS TWO NEIGHBORS, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, ON HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECTS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THIS WAS A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR PARAGUAY TO HAVE SUCH COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH BOTH LARGE NEIGHBORS. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT EVENTUALLY PARAGUAY MIGHT BE ABLE TO WORK OUT MORE THAN JUST BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH EACH, BUT LARGER TRILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT FOR A LAND-LOCKED COUNTRY THE EFFECTIVE USE OF FRESH WATER RESOURCES WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

5. THE CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH A FRIENDLY DISCUSSION IN SPANISH ABOUT AMY CARTER AND THE PARAGUAYAN HOPE THAT SHE VISIT PARAGUAY. CHRISTOPHER
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